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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
PATENT EXAMINING OPERATION

In re Application of:

KURT A. KEIL

Serial No.: 09/892,359

Filed: June 28, 2001

Title: STRUCTURAL TUBING MEMBERS
WITH FLARED OUT END SEGMENTS
FOR CONJOINING

Group Art Unit No.: 3637

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GROUP 3600

REPLY BRIEF RESPONDING TIMELY TO OFFICE ACTION OF 5/20/2004

Sirs:

This communication is in response to the belated First Office Action on the merits, mailed May 20, 2004, with an extendable shortened statutory period currently set to expire August 20, 2004.

PRELIMINARY REMARKS ON ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Original claims 1 to 26 remain under active consideration with only original claims 21 and 24 being amended herewith. They both recite the preferred material as being sheet steel. Also, independent channel member claims 21-26 are rejected for obviousness over a single citation, which will be addressed below.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

At page 1, line 11, emend to recite ≡U.S. Patent No. 6,279,288, granted August 28, 2001.≡

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